



A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER



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SHADWELL SOCIETY

Few if any 17th century scholars have ever heard of the Shadwell Society. Indeed, few literary figures have achieved the honor of having a society named for them. In general these organizations have been named after prodigious antiquaries such as Dugdale, Walpole and Malone, or for the study of recondite authors such as Shakespeare or Browning.

The Shadwell Society, however, exists for a more specialized reason. The students at Conville and Caius College, Cambridge, chose Shadwell because "He is the one Caian who became laureate." Due to their affection for Shadwell, "the Society has completely renounced Dryden and all his works, and stands wholeheartedly behind the mammoth form of Og."

According to the latest issues of The Caian, the Shadwell Society has recently experienced its most flourishing period. Among the papers read before the Society first mention should be made of one on "The Life, Character, Plays and Feuds of our Patron." Another discussed "Historical Forgeries", which, according to the secretary's comment, is "an occupation which has seemed to us ever since to be almost the most universal art of man." Additional papers have been on Wordsworth's Prelude, Shakespeare's Henry IV (by Dover Wilson), and another on "Oxford and Cambridge Mythology", concerning "the lies which have been perpetrated by Oxford and Cambridge in their efforts to establish precedents in the date of their foundation."

The members have also enjoyed composing sonnets, each member contributing one line in turn, as well as an amusement called "Brains Trusts" which "managed to maintain a constant stream of oracular and occasionally epigrammatic utterances on the subjects of "War, Werewolves and Women." Several plays were also read, including Shadwell's A True Widow, "which some members were surprised to find made very good reading."

We wish this Society every success as it grows into maturity.

RARE BOOKS AND MSS AGAIN AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH

When, on December 7th, 1941, the radio brought the unbelievable news that Japanese bombs were falling on Pearl Harbor, the officials of the great libraries on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts faced a difficult decision. Many of them at once decided to send their treasures far inland, to quarters safely removed from military targets. Others took advantage of vaults nearer at hand, sometimes on their own premises.

The libraries in New York and Washington took special precautions. The New York Public Library chose about twenty seven thousand items from its rare books, prints and MSS, and shipped them to Saratoga Springs, New York, where they were placed under guard in the air-conditioned Hall of Springs. There they remained until this past October, when they were returned under police guard,

in three trailer trucks. The Pierpont Morgan Library likewise sent its most valuable treasures out of the city. They were returned to the Library in the early Summer.

The Library of Congress dispatched its rarest collections to Charlottesville, where they were housed in the buildings of the University of Virginia. With them was preserved a copy of the L. C. Catalogue, a wise precaution in case Washington had been badly bombed. Full details of the return of these national treasures have appeared in the newspapers.

The Folger Shakespeare Library placed more than 30,000 books and manuscripts in storage. They were sent immediately after Pearl Harbor to Amherst, Mass., and housed in a specially constructed vault in the new fire-proof building of the Converse Memorial Library. This arrangement was quite appropriate, since the trustees of Amherst College administer the Folger Library. Though these rarities are now back in Washington, some months will elapse before they are all unpacked and available for study. Most of the large university libraries on the east coast were able to keep their treasures in vaults on their own premises. Thus the books and manuscripts at Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Texas have been available all through the past three years. Similarly the Boston Public Library was able to produce any item from its collections on an hour's notice, since its repository was very near at hand.

The most valuable collections on the Pacific coast are, of course, those at the Huntington Library in San Marino. The following excerpts are from a letter by Louis B. Wright:

"I am particularly glad that you can insert a statement in the Seventeenth Century Newsletter about the Huntington Library, because an earlier notice to the effect that the Library had packed away its material was completely misleading and was never corrected so far as I recall.

The research activities of the Huntington Library were never curtailed seriously because of inaccessibility of material.

After Pearl Harbor we put into safekeeping only a small collection of the rarest manuscripts and books. In most instances we had photographic reproductions of the books and documents which we put away so that scholars could continue their research even while the originals were in safekeeping. As rapidly as scholarly needs occur we are now restoring to the shelves the things that we packed away, giving priority to the most urgent.

Several years prior to the outbreak of the war in Europe the Huntington Library had diligently labored to procure photostats of unique and very rare books in European libraries. As a result of this policy we have a large collection of material no longer available elsewhere.

Not for a day during the whole period of the war has the Huntington Library been inactive. Despite serious curtailment in the staff as the result of military service, research work has proceeded smoothly, and the Library has accelerated its program for the collection of books and manuscripts which might otherwise be lost."

COMMENTARY ON PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

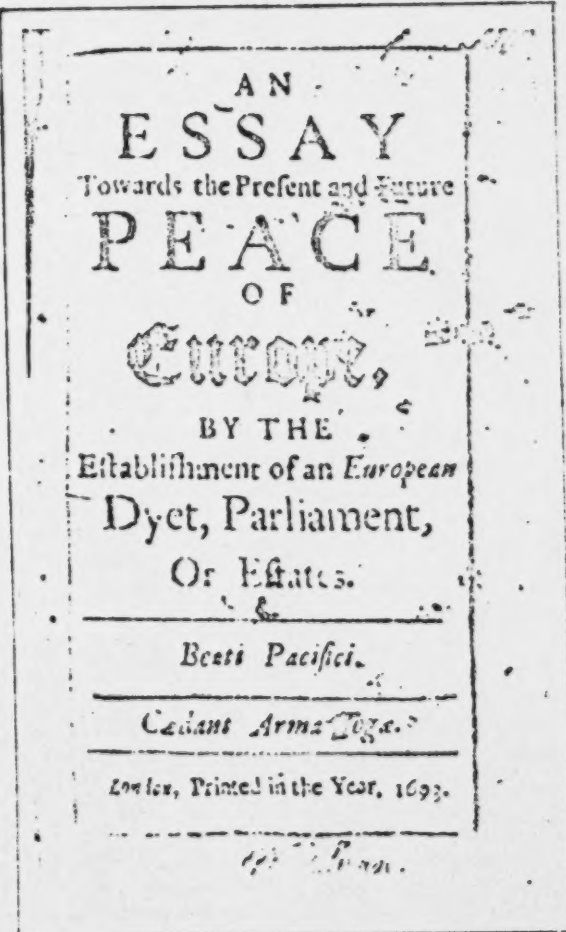
Captain John Diekhoff, now stationed in Washington, has been working on the final revision of his study titled Pilgrim's Progress: Commentary on the Argument. Though the Army leaves very little time for this work, he hopes to have the manuscript soon ready for the press.

(Answer to facsimile in last issue: The pages were reproduced from Stow's Survey, edition of 1618).

WILLIAM PENN 1644-1944

One of the most important anniversaries celebrated this year has been that of William Penn, born 14 October 1644. Appropriately, the State of Pennsylvania saw that this event was properly commemorated. Governor Martin appointed a Tercentenary Committee last March. A very handsome volume has been published by the Committee, Remember William Penn. It consists of seven papers on various aspects of Penn's career, plus several appendixes. At the end are reprinted Penn's Some Fruits of Solitude, and also More Fruits of Solitude.

The volume is copiously illustrated and interesting throughout. It is a model



that might well be followed in commemorating other anniversaries.

The accompanying facsimile is the title page of Penn's Essay Toward The Present And Future Peace of Europe, 1693. If this Essay had been read and acted upon by later generations, it is quite possible that we should not be worrying now of plans for future world organization. In this (as in other ways) Penn was at least three centuries ahead in his time.

CHECKLIST OF
ENGLISH PLAYS 1641-1700

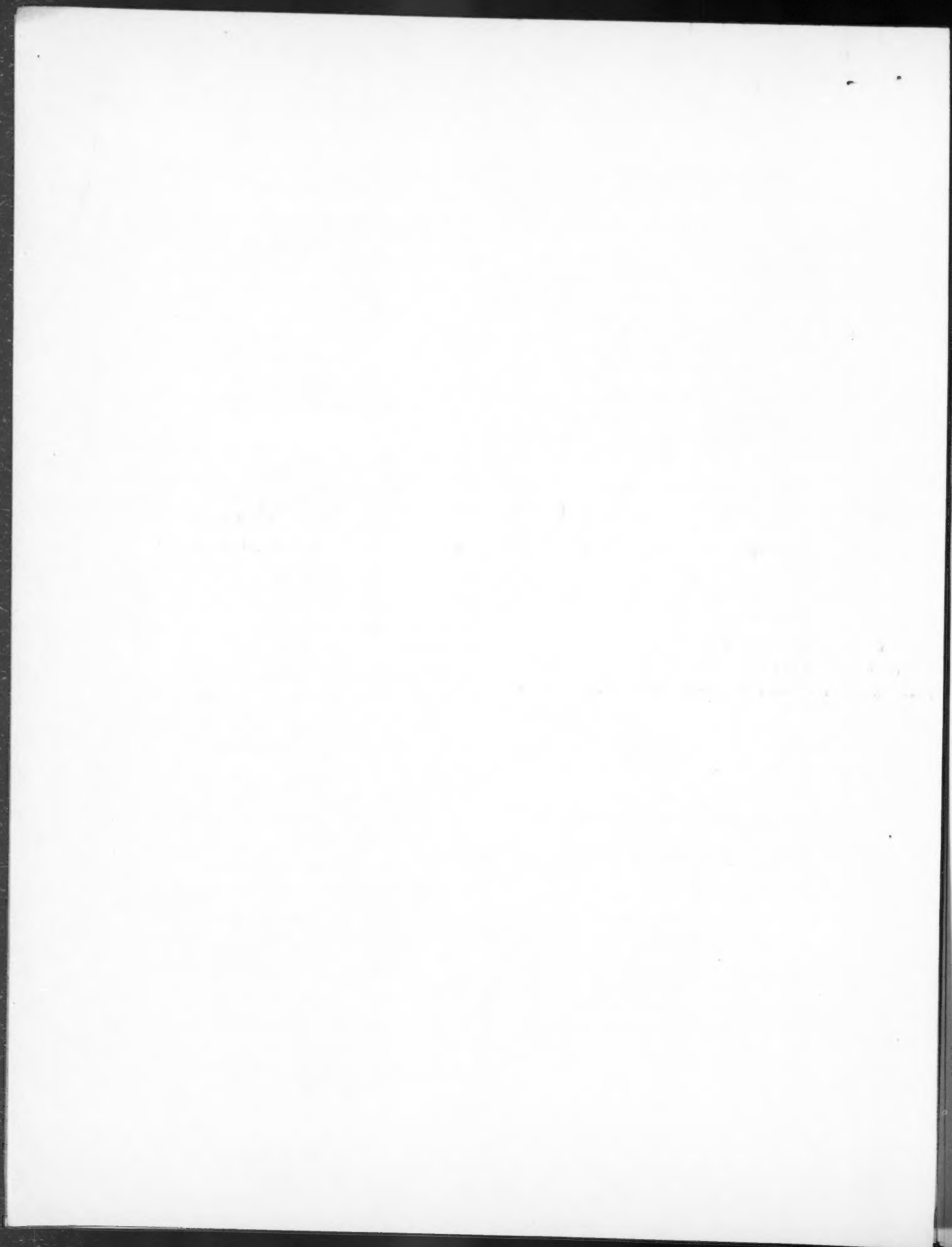
The Newberry Library has in press A Checklist of English plays, 1641-1700, compiled by Gertrude L. Woodward, of the Library staff, and James G. McManaway of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington.

This checklist began as a list of Restoration plays compiled by Miss Jane D. Harding and was so reported in the first number of this News Letter. Since then it has been merged with a similar list of plays undertaken at the Folger Library as a project of the 1942 Bibliography Committee of MLA Group English VI. And it has now been extended by the additions and corrections made by fifteen libraries invited to co-operate.

The purpose of the Checklist is to record the plays and masques, with the variant editions and issues, printed in the English language in the British Isles or in other countries during the years 1641 to 1700 inclusive, and to give the location of copies in a number of American libraries. Of the more than one thousand items listed, three fourths are to be found in each of two libraries, Folger and Huntington, and one half in each of two others, Harvard and Yale.

QUININE AND QUACKS

A history of quinine is being written by Mrs. Francisco Duran-Reynals (Yale). Tracing the history of this important



boon to mankind has led her into many corners of 17th century medicine. In particular, she has been investigating the career of Sir Robert Tabor, or Talbor, 1642?-1681, Physician Extraordinary to King Charles II and other prominent 17th century personages.

Quinine was much used by the medical men of the day, especially by the quacks. It was, of course, the basis of treatment for the ague, of which Sir Robert cured not only Charles II but also the Dauphin of France. He made a great mystery of his cure, disguising quinine by mixing other drugs with it. The virtue of his cure lay principally in his practice of administering the quinine in smaller doses, and more frequently than was done by other 17th century practitioners.

Mrs. Duran-Reynals would welcome communications from anyone who has encountered evidence of the use of quinine in the 17th century for the ague or other ailments.

FRANCIS QUARLES, 1592-1644

We do homage to Francis Quarles, the divine meditator, by reproducing the portrait that served as frontespiece in many editions of his works, beginning with Solomons Recantation, 1645.

Horace Walpole may have purposely exaggerated when he wrote "Milton was forced to wait till the world had done admiring Quarles," but few poets have achieved greater success in pleasing the readers of their day.

NEWS FROM BODLEY

Our faithful correspondent, Strickland Gibson, Keeper of the Archives at Oxford, included the following comments in a recent letter:

"Oxford is still unravaged. Neither flying bombs nor rocket has reached here. We hope soon to bring back our treasures from their secret depository. Our staff continues to deteriorate, and readers



tend to increase. Hours now are 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., but we may be compelled to close between 1 and 2 P.M.

"Exhibitions go on. At present we commemorate the Police (1166-1829). The Wood Collection has produced a number of forgotten and very interesting pamphlets on murders and robberies. We have also on view loans from the Black Museum of Scotland Yard!

"Next year is the quarter-centenary of the birth of Sir Thomas Bodley. If our treasures are back we shall make a special effort in the way of exhibitions.

"Bibliography just survives. I do really want to get Print and Privilege out, the most ambitious publication yet undertaken by the Oxford Bibliographical Society. Yesterday I looked at the galley proofs: They are dated 1934."

BUSK AND GARTER

In a recent issue of our esteemed contemporary, The Saturday Review of Literature (Nov. 11, p.26) Christopher Morley inquires for information about Anthony Brewer, . . . "him I reckon also to be of the 17th Centy, who wrote what I set next to Waller's Girdle among the prettiest midriff poems. Imagine, the average reader wnt even know what is a busk point!

Here's what Anthony Brewer wrote about it.

His Mistress's Busk-Point

The Gordian knot, which
Alexander great
Did whilom cut with his all-
conquering sword,
Was nothing like thy busk-point,
pretty peat,
Nor could so fair an augury
afford;
Which, if I chance to cut, or
else untie
Thy little World I'll conquer
presently."

We wish Kit Morley all possible pleasure in pursuit of Anthony Brewer, but he should not purloin this poetical corsage from its rightful author, the late Tom Torkis, Gentleman of Trinity Colledge in Cambridge.

Tom put these verses in the mouth of Phantastes, a character in his "Pleasant Comedie" entitled Lingua, published in 1607. They are said to be the beginning lines of the twentieth "Sonnet on his Mistresses' busk point," and we can only regret that the preceding nineteen are missing. Perhaps some future researcher into the life and times of Tom Torkis may recover them for posterity.

After Kit has completed his anthology of midriff poems, we suggest that he compile a companion volume of Garter poems, appropriately dedicated to the Knights of that ancient Order. As a beginning,

we contribute an excerpt from a rare 17th century poem, to the best of our knowledge yet unedited and anonymous.

TO MRS. A. G. . . , WITH A PRESENT
OF JERUSALEM GARTERS

These trifles, though far fetch'd,
not dearly bought,
And therefore but half good for
ladies' thought:
The pilgrims of Hierusalem beg
More consecration from your leg;
The Order of the Garter we renew:
Title and honour it shall take from
you.

Some virgin did these letters
braid
For a devout and learned maid
There, where the best of virgins
made abode,
Mysterious flowers upspringing where
she trode.
Th' experienced nuns thus take
delight
To weave a fairer hand than we can
write;
So may these holy bands embrace
About your tender gart'ring
place,
Themselves in time reprinting there
again,
And set forth new editions in your
skin.

D. NICHOLO SMITH TO SMITH

President Herbert Davis of Smith College confirms the news that D. Nichol Smith, Merton Professor of English Literature at Oxford has agreed to spend part of the next academic year at Smith College. This is welcome news to all his American friends and admirers.

Though 18th century scholars would like to claim Nichol Smith as theirs exclusively, 17th century students are well aware of his work and interest in that

field. His volume on Characters of the Seventeenth Century is standard in every reference library. In addition to his writings, Nichol Smith has long taught courses at Oxford in many 17th century subjects including Dryden.

PEPYS AND ALCOHOLISM

A paper on this promising subject recently appeared in The British Journal of Inebriety (vol. XII, No. 2), as we learn from the pages of our esteemed contemporary, N&Q. Since few of our subscribers are regular readers of this Journal, we herewith summarize the points made by the author, Dr. J. D. Rolleston, wherein he has brought out several sidelights on life in 17th Century England.

"Total abstainers in those days were exceptional," we learn. "Particularly during the Restoration, alcoholism was prevalent in all ranks of society from the King downwards." Pepys' Diaries record many instances of over-indulgence at court, for example the occasion when King Charles II, the Duke of York and others were, according to Pepys, "in such a maudlin pickle as never people were, and so passed the day."

Pepys' duties at the Admiralty brought him into close contact with the alcoholic excesses rampant in the Navy. The indulgent view of the top officers is illustrated by the attitude of Prince Rupert, who said to Pepys on the occasion of a man being dismissed from his office of boatswain for drunkenness, "God dam me, if they turn out every man that will be drunk, they must turn out all the Commanders in the fleets."

Dr. Rolleston further points out that "Fleet Chaplains were often men of notoriously loose life," and cites the case of one Rev. George Bradshaw, who after over-imbibing in ale, according to Pepys, "took off his clothes, and swearing 'God damn him, he was a man-of-war' leaped over a wall . . . and ran up and down."

From all indications, inebriety was just as common in the Army as in the Navy. And, indeed, this condition persisted among all classes of citizenry. Many medical men were notorious drunkards, including Pepys' own physician, Thomas Hollier, who while visiting at Pepys' house, on one occasion, would "talk nothing but Latin, and laugh that it was good sport to see a sober man." The domestic servants followed the example of their masters, including Pepys' maid Susan, who "gets out of doors two or three times a day without leave to the alehouse."

Pepys himself has a very admirable case history. Admirable because as a young man he drank too much, both during his student days at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and during his early years in London, but later summoned the will power to break the habit. On December 31st, 1661, he swore "a solemn oath about abstaining from plays and wine," and though allowing himself occasional dispensations, stuck pretty well to it. Dr. Rolleston makes the interesting diagnosis, concerning the earlier period, that since "many of his erotic adventures took place in alehouses, it is not improbable that alcohol was responsible, or was at least partially responsible, for their occurrence."

But Pepys' experience in self control resulted in inestimable benefit to the British nation, since two decades later he performed a great patriotic service in abating alcoholism in the Navy. Pepys declared, "Till that vice be cured, which I find too far spread in the Navy, both by sea and land, I do despair of ever seeing his Majesty's Service therein to thrive." The method he followed was a plan similar to that by which he had cured himself: he "established a system of fines, payable to the Chatham Chest for disabled sailors, for all drunkenness on service, while repeated offences were punished by dismissal."

In this interesting paper Dr. Rolleston has performed a valued service to Pepys, as well as to students of the Restoration era.



A NEW SIGNATURE OF SHAKESPEARE ?

We take great pleasure in reproducing for the first time in any American periodical the new signature of William Shakespeare, recently discovered in the Folger Shakespeare Library. A full account of its discovery was given by Dr. J. Quincy Adams in the Bulletin of the John Rylands' Library, June 1943.

The story of the discovery is fascinating. Among other books purchased for one pound at Southey's Auction rooms was a copy of William Lambarde's APRAXIONOMIA, 1580. This volume had been damaged by water at one time and the pages were crumpled in small wrinkles. Ordinarily this copy would have been sold as a duplicate, but it was retained because of several notes written in a 16th century hand, including:

"Mr. W^m Shakespeare lived at No 1 Little Crown Street Westminster, NE near Dorset steps St. James Park."

No supporting evidence to this statement was discovered, and in due course the volume was sent to the binders. All this time the signature passed unnoticed, because the front leaves were so badly crumpled.

When the book came back from the binders the leaves had been pressed, and the

signature was discovered, it having previously been illegible because of the wrinkles.

The learned staff of the Folger Library, including Messrs. Willoughby, Dawson and McManaway, focused their attention upon it with the help of a specialist at the United States Department of Archives. These men all agreed that it is in a 16th century hand. Moreover, the writing is so similar to the known signatures of the poet that its authenticity seems extremely likely, especially since contradictory evidence is lacking.

If this signature is accepted as genuine, it will be the eighth one discovered so far. And this little volume will be the only one extant that may reasonably be presumed to have belonged to Shakespeare.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BACONIANS

Sir Frederick Polloch is the author of the epigram

"He that did Bacon place where Shakespeare sits
Must have unbaken brains, or shaken wits."

So far no Baconian has produced an epigram in answer.

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